Re: Request for INTA’s Comments Concerning Bill 3531-D-07, introduced in the Argentine National Congress on July 18, 2007 by former member of the Argentine National Congress, Dr. Cristian Ritondo.

The International Trademark Association (INTA) respectfully submits the enclosed comments in response to the request referenced above concerning proposals to amend Argentina’s Trademark Law No. 22.362 and Law 25.246 on Prevention and Punishing Money Laundering Activities, introduced under Bill 3531-D-07, before the Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine National Congress on July 18, 2007.

INTA is a not for profit membership Association of more than 5,500 trademark owners and professionals from over 190 countries, founded in 1878 and dedicated to the support and advancement of trademarks and related intellectual property as elements of fair and effective national and international commerce. At present INTA has some 42 member firms based in Argentina.

For many years the Association has worked extensively on global trademark protection issues with legislatures around the world including the passage of measures such as the US Trademark Counterfeiting Act of 1984 and the Anti-counterfeiting Consumer Protection Act of 1996. In the European Union, INTA has worked closely with our European members to support initiatives to create a legal framework to harmonize EU anti-counterfeiting laws, including support for efforts to prepare a Directive on criminal measures to ensure enforcement of intellectual property rights.
INTA takes no position on provisions of the Argentine Trademark Law not addressed by the proposed amendments. The enclosed comments entitled “Analysis of Bill 3531-D-07”, was produced by INTA’s Latin American & Caribbean Subcommittees of the Legislation and Regulation Committee and the Anti-counterfeiting & Enforcement Committee. INTA notes that there are other bills submitted before the Argentine National Congress aimed at improving criminal sanctions in trademark counterfeiting and hopes that its views here presented are also taken into consideration in light of the examination of similar bills.

On behalf of INTA, I thank the Argentine National Congress, in particular to its Commission of Industry, Commission of Justice and the Criminal Legislation Commission, for the opportunity to assist in this important issue.

If you have any questions regarding our submission, please contact Laura Cruz, External Relations Manager, Latin America at lcruz@inta.org or 212 642 1740.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Steele
President